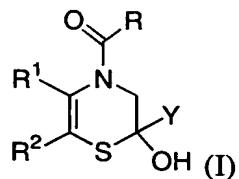


ABSTRACT

Provided are compounds of the formula (and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof):



wherein:

R is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl or α -hydroxyethyl;

R¹ and R² are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkynyl, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkyl, and pyrrolidin-1-ylalkyl; and Y is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, substituted and unsubstituted aryl; with the provisos that: (a) if Y is aryl, then at least one of R¹ and R² is other than hydrogen, and (b) if R² is hydrogen R¹ is other than methyl.

Also provided are pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds, and methods for the preparation of the compounds. The compounds are useful, among other things, as prodrugs which can be converted under acidic conditions to thiazolium agents. The compounds can be administered to mammals, including humans, for treatment of various indications.

TRA 1908427v1